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THE CONDOR

An Illustrated Magazine of Western
Ornithology

Published Bi-monthly by the Cooper Ornithologi-
cal Club of California

WALTER K. FISHER, Editor, Palo Alto
JOSEPH GRINNELL, Business Manager and
Assistant Editor, Palo Alto
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EDITORIALS

The time for the Tenth Anniversary Meeting is rapidly approaching. Every member should make a serious attempt to be present, for it is likely no opportunity of a similar nature will again present itself till our Twentieth Anniversary—and that is too uncertain to be counted on! Such a meeting as we hope for cannot fail to have a very wholesome influence, both upon the members, and upon the future work of the club. We are so scattered that it is only a comparatively few who enjoy the frequent meetings. Those who live at a distance are thus denied the benefits of the social side of the club—the association of members and the interchange of ideas and schemes which characterize our informal meetings.

The California meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union seems likely to be a success, as a circular describing the excursion has already been sent out by the committee. From this circular we learn that the "plan is to leave Chicago May 3, to reach San Francisco on or about May 13, and to hold a special meeting May 15-16 in conjunction with the California members of the A. O. U. and the members of the Cooper Ornithological Club." Already a local committee of arrangements has been appointed.

At the last meeting of the Northern Division, March 7, it was definitely decided that the Tenth Anniversary Meeting should be held at the Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, May 15 and 16, in conjunction with this special meeting of the A. O. U. The advantage of this arrangement is at once evident, and every one should be present, not only to make the two meetings a success in point of interest, but to become acquainted with those who attend. It is not often that our Eastern friends brave a journey to the "wild and woolly," and we should one and all assemble to help make their

trip to the West both enjoyable and long-to-be-remembered.

A committee now has the matter of the meeting and program in hand. You are cordially invited to write to the editor on the subject, so that we may gain some idea of who are coming. Later when plans are perfected notices will be sent to each member.

The A. O. U. Bird Bill, thru the activity of Mr. Wm. Dutcher, Dr. T. S. Palmer, Professor Wm. E. Ritter and others, has been introduced into the State Legislature. There seems to be a strong sentiment in favor of

THE A. O. U. the measure, which should insure its speedy passage. The BILL bill, which aims to give an adequate protection to our non-game birds, is essentially like the Cooper Club measure which was introduced two years ago, but which failed, as will be remembered, to secure the governor's signature. As the legislature adjourns within a few days, the fate of the bill will shortly be made known thru the daily press.

Both the editor and the business manager will be far removed from the scene of action during the coming summer. It is therefore requested that all longer articles intended for the July issue be mailed to Palo Alto not later than May 15. It will be necessary to make

A NOTICE up the July number very much earlier than is usual, as the proof sheets will have to make a round trip of some 6000 miles. As we examine at least three proofs the reason for the request is evident.

We regret that thru lack of space the FIELD AND STUDY section has been omitted in this issue. Many short notes will appear in the May number.

Owing to an unfortunate mistake the advertising pages in the January issue were numbered 31 and 32. These numbers have been duplicated in the present issue (frontispiece, as we do not publish 'plates').

It is probable that we will hold the May issue over a few days in order to include a report of the meetings. As we expect plenty of members here on the 15th the issue will not be missed!

Notice to Members of Southern Division.

At the meeting of this division held on February 28, 1903, a committee was appointed to make preliminary arrangements toward the revision of Grinnell's "Birds of Los Angeles County." It is proposed to collect all material notes, etc., that will in any manner bear upon the species known to occur in the territory outlined in the above mentioned list. Members are especially requested to report all early and late nesting dates that come under their notice during the coming season with whatever migratory notes they may have.

A more detailed account of the work ex-

pected to be done will be published in the May CONDOR.

HOWARD ROBERTSON,

49 Courthouse, Los Angeles.

An Open Letter.

ALTONA FARM, LONGMONT, COLO.,
FEB'Y 10, 1903.

MY DEAR FISHER:

I am so enthused over the last issue of THE CONDOR that I must write you a few lines, to try and spread my enthusiasm. Barring the unfortunate necessity of the "Memoriam" to our dear friend Barlow, the issue was certainly a "cracker-jack"—in fact the culmination of many good numbers which came last year. The extra good paper you are using in the make-up may be a trifle expensive now, but will prove cheap in the long run. It will stand the test of time, binding and usage much better than some journals of reference now twenty years old which were not published with the same foresight.

Periodically someone gets off a howl about the "Good old days," and "the O. and O.," "What it used to be" and "Why cannot we have something as good now." But THE CONDOR of today is a much better paper than the "O. and O." ever was. We must not forget that we are twenty years older than we were in those "Good old days," and possibly with our advanced information we would not now enjoy the "O. and O." as we did then. It certainly *was* delightful and amusing reading for us: the narratives of those "big sycamore climbs" and "stick in the mud" collecting trips. But as a magazine for reference, what is its price now compared to back copies of "The Nidologist" and the "Bulletin of the Cooper Club?" The "O. and O." *did* hold the old crowd together. That was a good feature and that is what our Eastern friends realize is lacking in the journals now in their hands.

Lattin's little sheet is filling its place and so is the "Auk." "Bird-Lore" and the "Osprey" are trying to do justice to the medium, with the result that the collectors are divided between the two and are not in unison. Your country out on the coast, to-day, has the best collectors, the best union, and consequently the best journal.

Last fall I experienced delightful visits with many of the "Old Boys," Jackson, Parker, Norris, Crandall and several others; men whom you will remember assisted in the make-up of the "O. and O.," and I talked CONDOR to them pretty strong. They all have great admiration for the workers out on the coast, and for your publication. They regret by contrast, their own lack of union and the decrease of good field work in the East. Since you publish as "A Magazine of Western Ornithology" do you care

to open your columns to the *use* of Eastern subscribers?

Oology was *primary* with us in the "Old Days," now it is *secondary* (to Ornithology). That fact has worked the change in the character of our reading matter, and those old collectors, who have not put the scalpel in a more convenient place on their table than the drill and blow-pipe, are behind the times and thereby deplore the loss of the old "O. and O." At the same time I find they value a set of eggs coming from a man with a good "skin record" like Anthony, McGregor or Grinnell about six times as much as they do a set from some of "Lattin's boys." Fisher! you should have seen the look of satisfaction on Crandall's face as he pointed out to me certain sets of eggs, here and there, with the remark that "they were some of Chester Barlow's collecting."

Cordially yours,
FRED M. DILLE.

Mr. Dille's pertinent inquiry in his "open letter" as to whether THE CONDOR intends to adhere strictly to the policy enunciated in its title "A Magazine of Western Ornithology" may be answered in the affirmative. While we are always glad to publish notes and papers of a *general nature* from our eastern friends, those articles which are faunal or biographical must be distinctly western, or in other words must fall within our "geographical limits." When the present editor was associated with the late Chester Barlow, it was decided that these limits should arbitrarily extend from the west coast eastward to *include* Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. Outside of the United States our scope is somewhat elastic, and comprises the Pacific Coast generally, and islands of the eastern Pacific.

The right sort of bird material is limited, and we do not care to encroach on the rightful territory of eastern ornithological journals. The Cooper Club, too, is a distinctly western organization, and it is believed that to be successful, the more western its magazine the better.

Obituary.

THOMAS E. SLEVIN.

Thomas E. Slevin died at his home in San Francisco, December 23, 1902. He was born January 20, 1871, in New York City, and came to the Pacific Coast in 1878. His love of natural history began when he was a mere boy and exhibited itself in a characteristic way. The first fruits of his ornithological endeavors are still preserved. From his father, the late T. E. Slevin, L. L. D., a founder of the Geographical Society of the Pacific Coast, he in-